

NEWS – CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

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STARK, LEVIN PRAISE \$4 BILLION IN FUNDS RECOVERED FROM ANTI-FRAUD EFFORTS

Republican Push to Repeal Health Reform Would Eliminate Key Tools to Fight Medicare Fraud

WASHINGTON- Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), ranking member of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, and Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, praised the Obama Administration's efforts to crack down on fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Their efforts in the past year have recouped \$4 billion in taxpayer dollars- the highest amount ever.

Rep. Stark: **"The Obama Administration is making Medicare work better for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and taxpayers. Today's announcement underscores the dangers of repealing health reform. Republicans would cost taxpayers billions each year by repealing new tools that help crack down on fraud in Medicare and Medicaid."**

Rep. Levin: **"Every dollar stolen from Medicare weakens this critical program. That's why this effort is so vital. Ridding the system of fraud and abuse so that the program remains strong for seniors and people with disabilities is a key priority of the new health care reform law. We must not allow that effort to be reversed by repeal."**

Health reform provides significant new tools to help the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) combat fraud, waste, and abuse. By repealing health reform, Republicans would:

- Eliminate new provider screening and enrollment requirements that stop fraudsters before they've stolen a dime.
- Prohibit HHS from imposing a moratorium that would halt new providers from joining Medicare in areas of significant risk of fraud.
- Weaken penalties for corporations that defraud Medicare and Medicaid and for Medicare Advantage and Part D plans that mislead customers -- increasing the likelihood that these

schemes continue.

For information on how the health reform law helps crack down on Medicare and Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse, please visit: <http://go.usa.gov/YCu>

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